

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a high Tc superconducting ~~tape or~~ wire, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a superconducting core;

placing a metal sheath around the superconducting core;

performing a plurality of annealing steps; and

after a final annealing step, applying a multilayer surface ~~layer~~ to the wire ~~or tape~~, the multilayer surface ~~layer~~ including an electrical insulating layer provided on the metal sheath and a low friction layer provided on the electrical insulating layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer ~~the surface layer~~ is colored or marked so as to be able to distinguish between different wires ~~or tapes~~, different portions of the same wire ~~or tape~~, or different sides of the same wire ~~or tape~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the low friction layer is composed of ~~tetrafluoroethylene~~ polytetrafluoroethylene ~~or Teflon®~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer ~~the surface layer~~ is made of polymeric

coating materials which are selected from a group consisting of polyurethane, polyesterimide, epoxy, and ~~tetrafluoroethylene~~ polytetrafluoroethylene.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer ~~the surface layer~~ contains any one selected from a group consisting of ceramic powder, graphite, carbon fiber, and metallic, polymeric or elastomeric particles or fibers.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~surface~~ electrical insulating layer is applied by any one selected from a group consisting of painting, coating, DIP-coating, spraying, and dry powder coating.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the coating material ~~of the surface layer~~ is any one selected from a group consisting of thermal curable, UV curable, and solvent based.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the multilayer surface layer is over either a single wire ~~or tape~~ or a bunch of wires ~~or tapes~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A high T_c superconducting wire ~~or tape~~ comprising a metal ~~matrix~~ sheath containing ~~embedded superconducting filaments~~ a superconducting core and at least two surface layers, wherein said at least two surface layers include an inner layer comprised of an electrically insulating polymer or elastomer, and an outer, low friction layer.

13. (New) A method of producing a high T_c superconducting tape, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of superconducting filaments;
embedding the superconducting filaments in a metal matrix;
performing a plurality of annealing steps; and
after a final annealing step, applying a multilayer surface to the tape, the multilayer surface including an electrical insulating layer provided on the metal matrix and a low friction layer provided on the electrical insulating layer.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer is colored or marked so as to be able to distinguish between different tapes, different portions of the same tape, or different sides of the same tape.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the low friction layer is composed of polytetrafluoroethylene.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer is made of polymeric coating materials which are selected from a group consisting of polyurethane, polyesterimide, epoxy, and polytetrafluoroethylene.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the electrical insulating layer and the low friction layer contains any one selected from a group consisting of ceramic powder, graphite, carbon fiber, and metallic, polymeric or elastomeric particles or fibers.

18. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the electrical insulating layer is applied by any one selected from a group consisting of painting, coating, DIP-coating, spraying, and dry powder coating.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the coating material is any one selected from a group consisting of thermal curable, UV curable, and solvent based.

20. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the multilayer surface is over either a single tape or a bunch of tapes.

21. (New) A high T_c superconducting tape comprising a metal matrix containing embedded superconducting filaments and at least two surface layers, wherein said at least two surface layers include an inner layer comprised of an electrically insulting polymer or elastomer, and an outer, low friction layer.